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valleys are not markedly U-shaped in cross section, and that they have been shaped almost exclusively by water. To quote him: "Thus valley after valley in the Alps seems to leave no escape from the following dilemma: either a valley cut by a glacier does not differ in form from one made by running water, or one which has been excavated by the latter, if subsequently occupied, is but superficially modified by ice."

In the section on Alpine Meteorology we find the statement, "The Föhn is a wind from the south, hot, stifling, and dry, supposed to come from the deserts of North Africa," a view long since discarded. One lays down the book with the conviction that science has moved forward since the genial and lovable author began his Alpine studies, but that he is scarce conscious of the fact. The material changes which time has wrought in opening up the Alpine Highland during this period are delightfully told in the closing chapter, entitled: "Fifty Years of Change." In this direction chiefly and in its touches of local color the book must make its appeal to all who know and love the Alps. It is, moreover, beautifully printed and illustrated by excellent photographs from many sources.

WM. HERBERT HOBBS.

POLAR

The South Pole: An Account of the Norwegian Antarctic Expedition in the "Fram," 1910–12. By Roald Amundsen. Translated from the Norwegian by A. G. Chater. Vol. 1, xxxv and 392 pp. Vol. 2, x and 449 pp. Maps, ills., index. John Murray, London. Lee Keedick, 140 Nassau St., New York. 1913. $10. Postage extra. 9½ x 6½ each.

The English edition of this work is superbly produced. None of the geographical flavor has been sacrificed in the translation from the Norwegian by Mr. Chater. Amundsen's plans for equipment, his sledging methods, hygienic régime and all other phases of his work were so richly the result of his own experience and that of others and of the devices he originated for meeting the special problems before him that the detailed account of them in these volumes adds much to the value of his narrative. Meteorology, the complete meteorological record from Framheim, the astronomical observations at the Pole and oceanography have adequate treatment in the appendices. The chapter on oceanography was written by Professor Björn Helland-Hansen and Dr. Fridtjof Nansen. Amundsen's book in the German edition was so adequately reviewed in the *Bulletin* (Vol. 44, 1912, pp. 903–908) by Professor W. H. Hobbs that no extended further notice of it is here required.

GEOMORPHOLOGY

The Making of the Earth. By J. W. Gregory. Home Univ. Library. 256 pp. Index. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1912. 50 cents. 7 x 4½.

The author is Professor of Geology in the University of Glasgow. He does not indicate whether he designs the book for general readers or for geologists and geographers. For the best profit in reading the work the former class would need some preliminary knowledge. The professional student will find a compact and useful summary of present views on some of the deeper problems of the origin and history of the earth.

One of the principal chapters deals with the nebular origin. The author appears to be in accord with the planetesimal theory as expounded by Professor Chamberlin, holding that the evidence as it stands is consistent with the hypothesis of a nebula consisting of a swarm of meteorites, ascribing the gaseous conditions postulated by Laplace to the more primitive stage of the nebula.

For the geographer the most suggestive chapter is, perhaps, that on the "Beneficent Influence of Segregation." By various processes of rock making and rock change the materials of the constituent meteorites were separated and brought together, like to like, forming the different kinds of common rocks and the great variety of useful materials produced in these rocks by secondary changes.

The volume is divided into four parts, each with a series of short chapters.

The captions of the parts are: the Origin of the Earth; the Growth of the Earth's Surface; the Plan of the Earth; the Share of Life in the Preparation of the Earth. In the third part we find a sympathetic and interesting account of the tetrahedral theory. A. P. BRIGHAM.

METEOROLOGY AND CLIMATOLOGY

Forecasting Weather. By W. N. Shaw. xxvii and 373 pp. Maps, ills., index. D. Van Nostrand Co., New York, 1911. $3.50. 9 x 6.

A combination of the principles of practical forecasting and the principles of meteorology has not been attempted often enough. This volume embodies such an effort. The many illustrations consisting of maps, diagrams and charts are always directly associated with the text. The discussion is concrete in nearly every instance so that the reader is not left to conjecture; however, the statements are not dogmatic but give the reader opportunity to judge for himself. It is doubtful whether elementary students could use the book successfully; on the other hand it constitutes an excellent reference book for advanced students.

The use of the expression "synoptic chart" sounds somewhat strange to the American student who is accustomed to hearing the term "weather map." On page 104 the term "transitional" is applied to "a vast number of examples" of "barometric distributions" which are "different from the pronounced family types." In Chapter XV the value of types to the forecaster is discredited. In fact on page 336 it is stated that "In dealing with this matter" (referring to average paths) "the forecaster must make use of his own experience of weather charts. . . . No forecaster can afford to depend upon the average." It is refreshing to receive such statements as these and others quite as good in contrast with those of some of our leading American forecasters who seem to fear acknowledging the fact that probably most of their accurate forecasts are the result of their personal experience and their failures the result of their dependence upon types.

The interesting discussion beginning on page 162 on the formation of cloud, hail, rain and snow, raises a number of problems worthy of much consideration. "Surface heating does not necessarily mean an ascending air column" *et seq.*, on page 170, should have the attention of the old school of students of meteorology who still believe this statement incorrect. The beginning of Chapter VI, The Physical Processes of Weather, ending with "it is not possible often to say whether a center of low pressure is the cause or the consequence of a westerly current," is well worth study.

Although the volume employs as a basis conditions for only a small portion of the earth, the British Isles, it treats of much that has broad application and therefore is a welcome addition to the field of meteorology and in particular to the special phase, forecasting. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Das Klima. Von Dr. Eugen Alt. 136 pp. Maps, index. Series: Bücher der Naturwissenschaft, 12. Band. Philipp Reclam, Jr., Leipzig, 1912. 80 pfg. 5½ x 4.

Within the compass of 132 small pages of text, Dr. Alt has given an admirable outline of the principles of climatology, surprisingly complete when the size of the volume is considered. The elements of climate, with reasonable emphasis upon the more strictly meteorological aspects of the subject; the climatic zones; the characteristics of the zones and of the different climatic types; changes of climate, and climate and civilization, all receive attention. There is even space for a remarkably good account, within 30 pages, of the climatography of the continents. The book adds another to the rapidly increasing list of books, in German, of course, which, almost in "vest pocket size," and at absurdly low prices, have been published within the last few years on climatology and meteorology. The present volume contains three charts, in colors, showing the pressures, temperatures and winds for January, July and the year. As the Rocky Mountains are not on the Pacific Coast of North America, and Oregon and Washington are no longer territories, it is hoped these erroneous statements will be corrected in the next edition of this excellent work. R. DEC. WARD.